GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4204
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2003
PERMISSION TO UPLINKING FROM INDIA FOR 24-HOUR NEWS CHANNEL
KANTI SINGH;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH;RAM PRASAD SINGH;V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued new guidelines for news channels uplinking from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Star News Broadcasting CNBC and some foreign T.V.Networks have approached the Government for permission to uplinking from India for a 24-hour News Channel programme;

(d) if so, whether the permission has been granted; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, company-wise, Channel-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. On March 26, 2003, Government issued guidelines for uplinkingof foreign owned news channels from India. The Guidelines, inter-alia, permits foreign equity holding in the applicant company up to 26% of the total paid up capital and require the company to be registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956 and majority of Directors, CEO and NewsEditor(s) to be Resident Indians.

Further, the permission for usage of facilities/infrastructure for live news/footage collection and transmission, irrespective of the technology used, will be given to only those channels which are uplinked from India and the channel/company will ensure that its news and current affairs content provider(s), if any, are accredited with the Press Information Bureau.

(c), (d) & (e) : Yes, Sir. The companies have been advised to apply afresh, as per the provisions of the revised guidelines.